

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Minutes of July 11, 2019. Meeting held at Training Center, Cook College Campus.

Dennis Lenhart welcomed the group. Pat Schanzlin then lead the meeting, following the Agenda.

Minutes from July 7, 2015 Meeting: Minutes from the prior meeting were held in abeyance until the next session, due to absence of the Secretary and potential changes that had been made since the last distribution. Meeting minutes for the June meeting will be approved in August, along with the minutes from this meeting.

Attendance:

Atlantic:	Absent
Bergen:	Joseph Cooper
Burlington:	Terry Zane, Nick Hendershot, Merry Bogard
Camden:	Diane Shonyo
Cumberland:	Carol Henry
Essex:	David Haines
Hunterdon:	Dewey Goodwin
Mercer:	Betty Scarlata, Sudi Solomon
Middlesex:	Kathy Dopart
Monmouth:	Gayle Williams, Bob Magovern, Jay Schaeffer
Morris:	Deirdre Gallagher
Ocean:	Suzanne Keane, Roberta Quinn
Passaic:	Rick Saeyers, Jim McHugh
Somerset:	Linda Madretzke, Cindy Hedin
Sussex:	Pat Schanzlin, Jane Gardner
Union:	Dennis Lenahan, Dolores Batz-Culp
Rutgers University:	Jan Zientek

TREASURER'S REPORT: Jane Gardner reported a balance of \$14,387.65. A motion was made to accept the balance as presented. Motion approved.

RCE Update: Jan Zientek reported that Rutgers is adding a new module to the MG Training program, regarding working with youth. This training will not take the place of background checks, nor will it take the place of any additional training required to meet the Rutgers requirements for working with youth in our programs. There will be a scripted presentation that may be delivered by Coordinators, 4H Coordinators or others around the state that are qualified to present to MG Trainees.

Rutgers has provided new guidelines for the collection of participant demographic data, as required by the FDA. This is the same data collected by the US Census process and will be requested for voluntary completion by any public groups who participate in our programs. Rutgers will provide a card that may be passed out to all participants, which cards will be collected at the conclusion of programs in a locking container. If for example, you have 100 participants and only 25 turn in the data collection cards, you would record the participant's demographic data of those 25 and list the remaining 75 as "contacts." The data collection process should be conducted at all sponsored events with the public. It is no longer acceptable to count the number of participants and randomly assign demographic categories.

Several board members had a variety of questions of Jan, which he answered to clarify the new guidelines. We will need to add this process to our Conference this year and obtain the cards from Rutgers, along with an approved collection bin.

Conference Update:

OCPE has opened the Registration site and so far we have about 40 new registrants. There is a new requirement by Rutgers that will ensure that all Conference Participants must provide their car make, model and license plates in order to avoid being ticketed or towed at Rutgers on the day of the Conference. This process cannot be completed through OCPE during registration, since a separate entity runs the parking policy. At the current time, once you have registered, at a later date you will receive an email with a link to complete your parking reservation. Be sure to advise all of your local Conference participants that they MUST register prior to the conference for the parking using the link provided.

This new process will provide a bit of a challenge for those individuals who are registering using a paper form, since OCPE cannot register cars for them. We are considering several options to handle walk-up car registration at the registration desk, having volunteers out in the parking lots to register unregistered cars or other solutions, to be determined shortly. Pat is investigating possible options. We will discuss this further at the August meeting.

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Dewey Goodwin will ensure that speakers are aware they must register; however, these are Rutgers employees and will undoubtedly have the proper permits already in place.

OCPE has set up a special process for Coordinators to use in the registration process to enable them to affect a PO for the registration process. **The code for Coordinators to use is AES2019.**

Garden Market: At the present time, we are planning to place Barnes and Noble in the Cook room to serve as a vendor in the Garden Market. They will be asked by Betty Scarlatta to see if they can bring books as well as other materials appropriate for sale to the Master Gardeners. In addition, we will ask B&N if it would be possible for them to provide us with 300 folders to use at the conference in exchange for the royalty override that in the past has been provided to us, since this seems to be a problem to track back to us in the accounting process.

Additionally, Jane Gardner has been in touch with AllColors, Inc., the Rutgers approved vendor for our apparel. They have shown an interest in participating in the Garden Market. They will sell our approved apparel at the Conference and take care of collecting the sales tax that has become an issue in the past year for selling good there. Stephen Mittler of ACI, will bring additional items, such as key chains, hats and non-sized goods for members to buy. He will also set up a laptop so that members can purchase sized goods at the Conference, to be sent to them once they are produced.

Members are asked to remind their constituents that no Counties are to bring goods for sale in the Garden Market, due to the difficulties in the collection of sales tax on Rutgers premises. We had someone come last year, which was an embarrassment to those who had to tell them they were not allowed to sell in the market any longer.

Folders: Diane Shonyo has about 100 folders left from last year to use for the Conference. She asked for members to make contributions toward the purchase of the folders. Betty will also check with B&N to see if they will swap out folders in lieu of the royalties to resolve this issue.

Facilities: David Haines reported that he and a group of the board will be going over to the Cook Student Center at 11:30 in order to do the walk through. We have reserved the space for the Market Garden this year, since it has been in the budget for some time and was reported as very positive in prior year's surveys by members. We took some time to bring new members to the board up to speed on the rooms at the Conference site, costs associated and how these rooms were to be used in the past. We will consider putting on a lunch room space this year, since we have a little money left over, due to the payment by AES for the registration process. That decision will be made once we do the walk through by the board members who participate.

We have asked our 3 International Conference Award winners to provide their posters for display at the Conference. These include Mercer, Hunterdon and Cumberland. The posters are very informative and will provide good recognition for the good work of our local groups during the Conference. We will determine where to place these posters after our walk through of the Facilities.

Additionally, we will check with Facilities to ensure that we have a designated person who is responsible for managing the AC and another person for the AV equipment to avoid having to try to resolve these problems with our own members.

Catering – Terry Zane and Deirdre Gallagher will review the catering contract and ensure that we have sufficient food for the lunch counts and the breakfast spread. Since there is a new procedure for paying in advance with Rutgers Catering, Pat, Terry, Deirdre and Jane will work with Jan to get this process handled per Rutgers guidelines.

Awards Booklets: Seven counties have turned in their information on their award winners. There are Bergen, Cumberland, Ocean, Hunterdon, Sussex, Monmouth and Somerset. The other counties need to remind their Coordinators that the information is to be sent to Suzanne Keane no later than July 19th for inclusion in the booklet. Pat will distribute an email with the proper email address Coordinators should use for Suzanne right after the meeting.

Door Prizes: Dolores Batz-Culp is responsible for the purchase of the door prizes this year. A motion was made, seconded and approved unanimously to get \$25 gift cards from Barnes & Noble and to provide ball caps, to be purchased through All Colors, Inc. Jane will handle the caps and work with Dolores to get the PO to purchase the gift cards through Barnes & Noble.

Evaluations: Mary Lou Monohan has agreed to continue to assemble the evaluation and the feedback as in the past. We will need to be sure she knows that we need to collect Demographic data, as Jan explained earlier today.

Program Flyer: Carol Henry is working on the flyer and got the new updated schedule from Pat for inclusion.

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Program Speakers: Dewey Goodwin reported we are good to go on the speakers.

COUNTY REPORTS: Because of the Facilities walk-through, the county reports will not be shared this month with the meeting. Please send your reports to Tricia Deering as usual to be included in the finalized minutes.

Atlantic: no report

Bergen:

Van Saun Park Zoo. A volunteer crew in the demonstration garden made up of Members of the Class of 2018 helped spruce up the zoo's demonstration herb garden in time for the annual members night of the Friends of the Bergen County Zoo. The demonstration garden contains common herbs like parsley, sage, rosemary, and thyme plus different varieties of oregano and mint along with some uncommon plants, such as Vicks plant (*Plectranthus tomentosus*), indigo, and roses. The plants are labeled for demonstration and aren't used for any other purpose although wild residents of the zoo munch on them occasionally. The garden also contains some ornamental sections.

Garretson Forge and Farm. The vegetable garden at Garretson Forge and Farm will be even more robust with the planting of summer squash. This year marks the farm's 300th anniversary. Volunteers meet Thursdays from 10 am-2 pm and the second and fourth Sundays from 1-4 pm at the farm, 4-02 River Road, Fair Lawn.

Hackensack River Greenway through Teaneck. Help remove trash and invasives at the two events below, both from 10 am-noon. Bring gloves, rakes, and loppers if you have them. On July 7th, Cleanup at Lower Brett Park in Teaneck, by the swing bridge and on July 20: Cleanup at Terhune Park in Teaneck.

NJ Botanical Garden/Skylands. Join the Bergen County Audubon Society on July 14 for a walk through the gardens and fields to look for and identify butterflies that visit the NJBG. Bring binoculars if you have them and wear comfortable shoes. **Skylands Manor Tours.** On July 7th, NJBG volunteer docents lead visitors on a tour of the architecture and history of Skylands Manor. On July 12, **Concert: Richard Reiter Swing Band performs.** One of New Jersey's most popular swing combos kicks off summer with familiar standards from the swing era and the best of classic rock. Bring a lawn chair; concert moves to the Carriage House in bad weather. *Sponsored by Wells Fargo Bank.* This weekend is **Girl Scout Weekend.** Girl Scouts & State Parks program on July 13 & 14. Welcome to NJBG! Then on July 21 it's **Family Woodland Hike.** An easy, child-friendly hike in the Garden's woodlands, where you'll learn a bit about the plants and animals around you in a hike designed to fit the group. Smaller children may need to be carried.

On July 26th, bring a lawn chair and enjoy. **Concert: The Guthrie Brothers.** The Simon & Garfunkel and Everly Brothers songbooks, and original harmony-driven music.

Burlington: As excited as we were when we welcomed our coordinator, Katie Wickel, we are equally saddened to bid her farewell. Katie has accepted a teaching position with Monmouth County Vocational and Technical School. We thank her for her dedication and hard work on behalf of the Rutgers Master Gardeners of Burlington County. Wishing her continued success with her future endeavors.

Project Reports:

Gardens at Burlington County Fair Grounds – Even with the rain and heat, our gardens are looking bright and cheerful. The colorful annuals should be a welcoming site for the anticipate 10,000 plus visitors to our farm fair starting next week.

Butterfly Garden at Smith Woods – This month we weeded and planted more perennials and host plants. We are beginning to count and tally the number of pollinators that come to our plots. It has been a hot and wet month in the garden. Our host plot consisting of fennel, dill, and parsley seems to be attracting swallowtails and we are seeing some caterpillars.

Donation Garden at Medford Leas – The Donation Garden is progressing well. We have donated about 300 lbs. of produce to the local food pantries mostly from onions, salad greens, Asian greens, radishes, peas, beans, collards, etc... we even harvested our first eggplant. We expect the tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers and squash to begin serious production soon.

IPM and Demonstration Plots at BCCAC – Everything is planted so we move to our summer mode of watering and weeding.

Kitchen garden looks great. The herbs are growing well, the annuals are blooming and the dahlias are coming along quite nicely.

Raised beds are being watered and weeded.

In the demo plots, the strawberries have been picked, counted and eaten. Robert Mazza who has the lead in this plot is writing a production report that includes a weather report and a taste test.

The pollinator plot looks spectacular and the blueberries have been picked. The hops are not doing well because of insect and disease. Our trial plot of the three sisters is struggling, the squash having taken over the beans and the corn being eaten by the deer.

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

The bean demo plot is coming along, we should pick our first beans this week. The barley plants have been completely eaten by the birds. The flax plot is looking good and the salvia plot is coming along nicely. All we need now for the rain to stop for a while.

Medicinal/Culinary Colonial-Era Garden at Pineland Preservation Alliance – The newly installed colonial era culinary/medicinal garden at PPA thrives, although the pearly everlasting decided the days of soaking rains and heat were too much and they succumbed to a nasty mold. New plants, such as a tough Adam's needle (*Yucca filamentosa*) and a lady fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*) took their place and are doing well. General reworking of adjoining shade beds continues, with an eye towards new plantings in the fall.

Pinelands Preservation Alliance Kitchen Garden – No Report.

Rancocas Nature Center – The gardens are growing like crazy with all the rain. I put in Cardinal flower, and blue lobelia which love the wet. A local company spent a volunteer day weeding and planting more native plants. The Lil'Sprouts group planted tomatoes, lettuce, carrots, flax and cotton in the Children's garden. The hummingbirds came around the end of April - later than past years. We're using the vinegar solution as an environmentally safe weed killer in between showers.

Upcoming Events:

- Burlington County Farm Fair – July 16 – 20, 2019
- July 24, 2019: All About Rutgers Master Gardeners of Burlington County – Sharon Astorino, Moorestown Library
- August 28, 2019: Deer Friendly Yards – Dave Parsons, Moorestown Library
- September 25, 2019: Fall Gardening and Preparing for Winter – Rich Allen, Moorestown Library

Blog Spots:

IPM Blog, All About Mosquitoes, by Rich Allen

<http://bcmgipm.blogspot.com/2019/05/welcome-to-mosquito-season.html>

Invasive Bradford Pear, by Dave Parsons

<https://rutgersmqbc.blogspot.com/2019/06/invasive-species-in-new-jersey-series-6.html>

<https://rutgersmqbc.blogspot.com/2019/07/ergonomics-for-gardeners-series-7.html>

Camden:

Hydroponics and Greenhouse

The greenhouse was harvested, cleaned, and basically shut down for the summer in June. The only thing growing at the moment are tomatoes in our vertical garden, they like the heat. We will reopen the greenhouse late August for the County Fair. Also, we are still maintaining the two aeroponic gardens at the Environmental Center, and the Reagan building in Lakeland.

Programs

Upcoming programs will be an arborist talk on trees July 16th and a trip to Fair Haven Farm July 18th. Free Haven Farm, located in Lawnside, NJ, has a rich history of serving its predominantly African American citizens. It was featured recently in an article in the Courier Post.

July 24 will be a presentation by herbalist Tiffany Soska on the medicinal property of herbs. This will be held in the educational gardens.

Luncheon Committee

The annual Master Gardener recognition luncheon, held in November, is being organized by the luncheon committee. The menu and program are being finalized.

Outreach and Speakers Bureau

The committee will be participating in three local talks and three farmers markets during July.

Educational Gardens

The team has successfully finished most of the major garden work. The Power Corp group has assisted us in creating a French Drain to solve the water issue. They have also assisted us in creating the 60x40 ft pumpkin patch which was planted. We will be placing mailboxes with plant information and identification at each garden site.

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Our hardscape committee has outlined the next major steps which include constructing deer fencing; rain barrels and gutters to the barn and begin establishing the pathways. This will begin in July and continue through August . Our colonial herb garden expert will present a talk on the healing power of herbs July 24th.

We are planning for the major garden event on October 3 which will be a celebration of the gardens and an acknowledgement to the financial contributors of the gardens.

Publicity Team

The committee is upgrading its current Microsoft software in order to create an event calendar on the web site. It will also allow more creativity in style, font selection and color for the website. It will enable better interaction with Eventbrite and our Facebook page

Cumberland: no report

Essex:

Upcoming Master Gardeners of Essex County Meeting Schedule and Speakers:

Date	Speaker (Y or No)	Subject
07/13/2019	Yes	"Right Tree – Right Place" Lisa Simms, Executive Director of NJ Tree Foundation
09/14/2019	No	General Meeting, 2019 Class Graduation, Party and Awards

Upcoming Events in Essex County

07/20/2019	Native Plant Society of NJ – Open Garden Tour Through 7 Public & Private Native Gardens. Contact essex@npsnj.org for more info
08/03/2019	BuzzFest – Essex County Environmental Center, Roseland
08/08/2019	North Jersey Orchid Society – The Hanover Manor, 16 Eagle Rock Avenue, East Hanover, NJ. See www.njorchids.org for more info
08/24/2019	Rutgers Cooperative Extension will host the Essex County Tomato Contest at Garibaldi Hall
09/10/2019 - 05/2020	New Essex County Master Gardener Class begins at Garibaldi Hall in Roseland

Horticulture Workshops for Seniors – Fall/Winter 2019

SENIOR CITIZENS OF ESSEX COUNTY YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN HORTICULTURE WORKSHOPS PRESENTED BY THE RUTGERS COOPERATIVE EXTENSION MASTER GARDENERS OF ESSEX COUNTY

09/16/2019 Watch for new sessions to begin

MGEC Volunteer Projects – Weather and Season Permitting

404 Community Garden 404 14th Avenue, Irvington
Branch Brook Park Cherry Tree Pruning Team
Branch Brook Park -Prudential Concert Grove - (Southern Section)
Brookdale Park Pollinator Garden
Brookdale Park Pruning —ongoing pruning of Trees
Garden of Worker Bees
Caldwell Pollinator Garden
Education Outreach
Giving Garden Nutley area

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Glenmont Project Thos. Edison Nat'l. Historical

Plus others

Hunterdon:

Our award winning Sensory Garden team was featured on PBS this past week.

Our Giving Garden continues to provide fresh veggies to the Food Pantry and is working with the Food Pantry with their on-site garden.

Our Community outreach programs are in full summer mode and continue to provide information at many Community events throughout the County.

Our Helpline has been very busy.

We continue to support Snyder Farms.

We are recruiting for the next years' MG class.

Mercer:

Saturday, June 8 was our first ever garden tour. The weather was perfect and we sold 132 tickets. The tour included three public gardens and eight private gardens. The owners and docents heard many wonderful comments from attendees and all were asking for us to do it again next year.

Margaret Pickoff and several Mercer MGs attended the Search For Excellence presentation ceremony at the International Master Gardener Conference in Valley Forge. The awards, including Mercers, were presented by David Gibby who founded the Master Gardeners.

In June we had a bus trip to the new Rail Park in Philadelphia, and the Barnes Arboretum.

June marked the start of our 8 week series, "Hands On In The Garden" to be held at Mercer Educational Gardens. The first three talks were on Perennials, Natives and Herbs. Five more seminars will be held in July and August.

Nineteen applications have been received to date for the Fall 2019 intern class.

Plans are moving along with our 25th anniversary celebratory dinner.

Middlesex: Tomorrow, July 11th, is our Summer Solstice and July Birthday Babies Bash @ 6pm at the EARTH center in the Alumni Garden.

On July 17 we will have the first of five Better Impact training sessions. The purpose is to get everyone onboard before January of next year. Master Gardeners are encouraged to bring laptops and/or smart phones so this workshop can be interactive.

Our Garden Gala will be hosted by the Middlesex County Master Gardener board on Tuesday, July 23rd at 6 pm. All are invited to come a tour the gardens in their prime!

Our Open House is Saturday, Aug. 24th from 10-3pm at the EARTH Center, 42 Riva Ave, North Brunswick. Tour the gardens, sit in on mini lectures about various horticulture topics, listen to live music and sample Jersey Fresh produce- all FREE

Monmouth:

June 26th at our night General Meeting we awarded our Scholarships to four deserving college bound students or those already attending a university/college in the field of horticulture or related sciences. In attendance was Freeholder, Lillian Burry and Sheila Bodner, wife of the deceased MG, for which our scholarship is named. Applications were available on-line to any Monmouth County resident pursuing a career in either of the fields mentioned above.

Plans have already been set in motion for the County Fair with the theme of "Flower Power". Our Junior Master Gardeners will be entering their produce for judging at the Fair as well. Although the classroom portion of that Program has ended, the children are encouraged to come out Saturday mornings to weed and harvest their vegetables.

Saturday and Sunday, July 13 and 14, nineteen of our county Community gardens will host tours from 9 AM to 12 PM. In combination with the "Grown in Monmouth" campaign through the county, Master Gardeners and plot owners will be on-hand to discuss best practices for successful gardening and answer any questions our visitors may have.

In June Tom Matulewicz, Composting Committee Chairperson, arranged for 3 trips to the Monmouth County Reclamation Center which proved to be very interesting as we were not aware of what can or cannot be recycled!

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Further, they have leased falcons and hawks to patrol the Center to rid the property of sea gulls! The falconer spent time with us sharing what was entailed in the training process for their patrol of the grounds.

The gardens around the Ag. Building are in maintenance mode with the PAR really starting to take off! Our interns attend the PAR daily making trips to our local food banks. The Horticulture Enrichment Committee began a program at Laurel Bay Health and Rehab in Keansburg and will be there for a few more sessions. In May our Speakers Bureau gave 3 programs as well as 3 in June. Four programs are scheduled for July. The Speakers Bureau will take a break in August. Coming quickly is our Bugs, Birds & Beyond free event that will take place on Saturday, August 17th from 12 PM- 4 PM. Although a children's event, children of all ages are wowed by the raptors, Lady Bug lady, 4-H animals, games and crafts! Vendors will be on-hand, if you are hungry. All are welcome to attend!

At our general meeting in June, Larry Kuser from Fernbrook Farm spoke on "Plant Pallete Diversity". Larry was very knowledgeable in plant varieties and making suggestions for better plant choices. He will definitely be invited back again!

Morris: no report

Ocean: The Outreach Committee is quite active this summer with tables at seven events in July and eight scheduled for August. The IPM team is having another evening session Aug. 7, 6-8pm. Our garden work continues. The vegetable gardens regularly donate to local food banks and the culinary arts adult classes. We haven't neglected flowers to attract pollinators at the gardens, either. We had a talk about the value of sunflowers at one garden and at the other, we have 2 small flower sections, one of which is ablaze with wildflowers. We had 2 turtles visit the sweet potato bed, one actually laying eggs. Coming up, there will be a Helpline Training, with role-play, on July 16, morning and afternoon sessions. We have Bruce Crawford on the 22nd for an all-day Advanced ED on "Landscape of Learning, Gardens Designed for Education". Then, on Aug. 1 our Awards and Installation of Officers Pot-luck Luncheon takes place. Two years ago, we started a tradition where recent alumni are invited to join us for this occasion. Another all-day education on "Youth Outreach" will be held on Aug. 13. Flyers are going out to other counties.

Passaic: The big news this month was the Grand Opening of the Rutgers High Tunnel on July 8th at the Preakness Valley Golf Course in Totowa after hosting a planting activity with a group of Passaic County 4-H youth and recent graduates of the Passaic County Master Gardeners program. The installation of this structure will allow Rutgers Master Gardeners, youth, and others to learn about horticultural and agricultural techniques. A high tunnel is a fairly simple, inexpensive greenhouse like structure consisting of an enclosed metal pipe framing covered with greenhouse grade plastic that provides the opportunity to extend the growing season, by growing earlier into the spring and later into the fall, while protecting crops from excessive rain, wind, sun, cold, and in many cases from wildlife damage.

This urban project will play an important role in the training curriculum of the Rutgers Master Gardener Program of Passaic County by providing an appropriate space for hands-on learning.

This high tunnel was funded through a grant by the National Association of Conservation Districts under the Urban Agriculture Conservation Initiative. Rutgers Cooperative Extension partnered with the Hudson, Essex, and Passaic Soil Conservation District to apply for this grant.

On July 17, MGAPC held its annual Summer Picnic at the Bloomingdale Senior Citizens Center, the location of one of our projects, Sonny's Garden.

Somerset: At our June meeting, Joe Gyurian thanked Marsha Longshore for her excellent service as Chair of the Advisory Council for three years, Mary Patten for her detailed minutes and Mousumi Patel for her ability to keep track of every penny. The new officers for the coming term: Gail Smith - Chair, Linda Bell - Co-chair, Kathleen Schurzky and Lisa Cuzzola – co-Treasurers, and Dottie Cassimatis - Secretary.

Seeds to Salad projects at 2 elementary schools, Whiton in Branchburg and Pine Grove in Franklin Twp., concluded with celebratory salad lunches. All student gardeners and their teachers enjoyed the harvest. More than 150 children participated.

On one of the few sunny days this spring, our bus trip to Chanticleer Garden (Wayne, PA) and Jenkins Arboretum (Devon, PA) went well. Our Ways & Means Team is planning a fall trip to Bowman's Hill Wildflower Preserve and Sand Castle Winery for September. Lectures at these sites will count for CEUs. In spring of 2020, New York Botanical Garden will be our destination.

Bonnie & Dave Johnson organized a very successful members' plant sale. The Ways & Means Team members acted as cashiers and set-up & clean-up workers. Many very special plants were available, all lovingly grown by RMGSC members.

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

Our Habitat For Humanity Team planted a small garden at a Habitat house in Franklin Township with plants raised by 3 Master Gardeners. The Team is planning for a September planting day at a new house.

Lauren Randolph reported that the Franklin Twp. Community Garden is thriving, the seedlings provided and planted by the Master Gardeners and community members have shown considerable growth. Community members are looking forward to harvesting lots of vegetable and salad crops.

Adding a children's activity to our community events tables at farmers' markets has garnered increased interest from the public. In Montgomery and Bedminster, kids made newspaper seed starter pots and planted seeds to take home. In the future, a traveling worm bin may be added to the table so the youngsters can learn about a good guy in the garden.

Looking toward September, 17 people have registered for our Master Gardener Class of 2020. There is room for a few late comers should there be additional interest.

Our home at the Ted Blum 4-H Center, 310 Milltown Rd., Bridgewater is getting a facelift. In preparing for fresh paint and new carpeting, a whole lot of clearing out and re-arranging has been going on. Our Helpline has been suspended for a few days but will be back in business soon.

Sussex: Sussex County Master Gardeners are getting ready to support the NJ State Fair and the Sussex County Farm and Horse Show, currently running for 10 days from the last Friday in July through the first week of August. We are serving as docents during the annual state Flower Show, placers, judges and support staff for the events. A new class has been set up for Master Gardeners. The topic is Fairy Gardens. Any Master Gardener may submit an arrangement to this class, which will be held on Tuesday. Check on the NJ State Fair website to sign up should you wish to participate.

Our beds are constructed in the Demonstration garden and we have several vegetable varieties currently growing, including Rutgers tomatoes, pumpkins, cucumbers and some herbs. We are going to build some additional beds using concrete paver wall blocks on Friday this week. Next year, we will have a full plan in place to grow trials of various varieties of flowers and vegetables suitable for home gardens.

Our project groups are working hard around the county doing demonstrations, conducting speeches and keeping up with the various plots. The Sussex County Fairgrounds Founders Park is in full readiness for the start of the fair as are other gardens around the site.

Union:

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN: MG Family and Friends Picnic was cancelled due to low response.

DOCENT: Planning meeting was held on June 27 with brain storming sessions on a good tours, objectives, publicity, and dates.

GARDENING WITH CHILDREN: Day Camp Visits to Demo Garden scheduled with Trailside Nature and Science Center & Master Gardeners partnership for Wednesdays, from 10 to 11:30. July 10 and July 31 - Bugs and Beyond: Insect Talk, Insect Walk and a brand new activity on Bees for third graders. July 17 - Branching Out is first graders with planting a seed, the Sharing Garden and Hydroponic Gardening. July 24 - The Art of Nature: Nature's Paints, Pizza Pins and Scavenger Hunt for third graders.

HERB GARDEN: Donations of mint, cilantro, and basil were given to the Sharing Garden for distribution.

SHARING GARDEN: Kale, bok choy and onions were grown and donated to three agencies totaling over 87 lbs.

PUBLIC EVENTS: • Plant Swap Thursday, June 6 at Demo Garden 5:30 - 8:30 pm. The county has a new program, a "Plant Swap" to encourage residents to remove invasive plant species from their property and swap them for a native plant. Participation in the plant swap was by emailing the county at watershed7@ucnj.org.

Rutgers Master Gardener Association of New Jersey

EMERALD ASH BORER: The Ash Tree Survey continues on Tuesday mornings in the Union County Parks.

EXECUTIVE BOARD: The board is in recess until September.

HELPLINE and EDUCATION: Wednesday, June 19 was the Ticks and Insects of Interest Training Program at the Rutgers Busch Campus. Madeline Dinardo organized a very informative lecture sessions with the following speakers: Professor Dina Fonseca, PhD Director Rutgers Center for Vector Biology, Tadhg Rainey, Division Head – Health Hunterdon County Health Services Dr. Leslie Seraphin, Epidemiology Officer USDA, APHIS Veterinary Services Alvaro Toledo, PhD, Assistant Professor of Entomology Rutgers Center for Vector Biology, Pam Zipse, Outreach Coordinator Rutgers Urban Forestry Program.

ADJOURNMENT: Next meeting is August 8 at 10am at Extension Conference Center

Respectfully Submitted
Jane Gardner, Recording Secretary Pro Tem